

**00639**

**1972/03/13**

## MEMORANDUM

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~TOP SECRET~~ACTION  
March 13, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: Phil Odeen *PO*  
SUBJECT: Cambodia Assessment

You asked that a Cambodia assessment NSSM be revised (see Tab B for comments) before it was issued.

I have made the revisions directed:

-- Due Dates. Early April has been set as the due date for the two component studies that would be done by the agencies. An overall assessment would be ready by late April, prior to the Moscow trip.

-- NSSM Format. The directive has been set in NSSM format, as you requested, with multiple addressees.

In addition, an earlier Cambodia NSSM presented for your approval has been discarded. The enclosed NSSM covers it fully.

I recommend that you approve the Cambodia Assessment NSSM enclosed at Tab A.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the Cambodia Assessment NSSM at Tab A.

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E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5  
NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES  
BY 66, NARA, DATE 3/2/2000

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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National Security Study Memorandum [152]

TO: The Secretary of State  
The Secretary of Defense  
The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Cambodia Assessment

The President has directed the preparation of an assessment of the current situation in Cambodia, prospects for the next 18 months, and actions we might take to advance our objectives in Cambodia.

The first part of this study, dealing with political aspects, should cover but need not necessarily be confined to:

-- The prospects for political stability or change and the implications for the military situation.

-- An assessment of problems and prospects for GKR-GVN relations and ways in which we can contribute to their improvement.

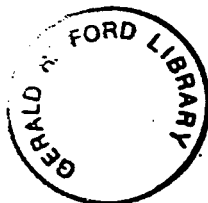
This part of the study should be prepared by an inter-agency group chaired by a representative of the Secretary of State. It should be completed by April 7, 1972.

The second part of the study dealing with military aspects should cover:

-- The military situation in Cambodia, including FANK capability to deal with a reasonable range of enemy threats.

-- The determinants of FANK effectiveness and the actions that could be expected to improve it. This should examine the appropriateness of FANK strategy, tactics, and leadership as well as the level and

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composition of our assistance programs and such issues as improving the personnel and logistics systems. Development of Cambodian air support in relation to reductions in available U.S. air should be covered.

-- The alternative approaches to obtaining a more effective FANK. This should consider actions which could be taken by the GKR alone as well as by the U.S. and/or ARVN.

-- The importance in military terms to Vietnamization of various Cambodia contributions including denial of supply through a Cambodian port, allied air operations against supply routes in Eastern Cambodia, cooperation with ARVN in cross border operations against logistics and training areas, and diversion of NVA and VC combat forces away from Vietnam.

This part of the study should be prepared by an inter-agency group chaired by a representative of the Secretary of Defense. It should also be completed by April 15, 1972.

The VSSG Working Group should provide general direction for both studies and incorporate the two studies into a single issues paper for consideration by the Senior Review Group late in April.

This study should also serve as a major input and basis for the FY 74 Country Programming Memorandum on Cambodia required by NSSM-122. The due date for the Cambodian CPM is postponed to June 30.

Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Director, Office of Management  
and Budget

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